



5.7: Political Systems and Liberal Values

[Here is a link to the instruction video also found on the assignment download page](#)

Big Ideas



- *Explore the extent to which governments should reflect the will of the people.*
- *Appreciate various perspectives regarding the promotion of liberalism within the political system.*
- *Examine the extent to which the practices of political systems reflect the values of liberalism.*
- *Explore the extent to which governments should promote individual and collective rights.*



- *This is a two-part assignment.*

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Instructions

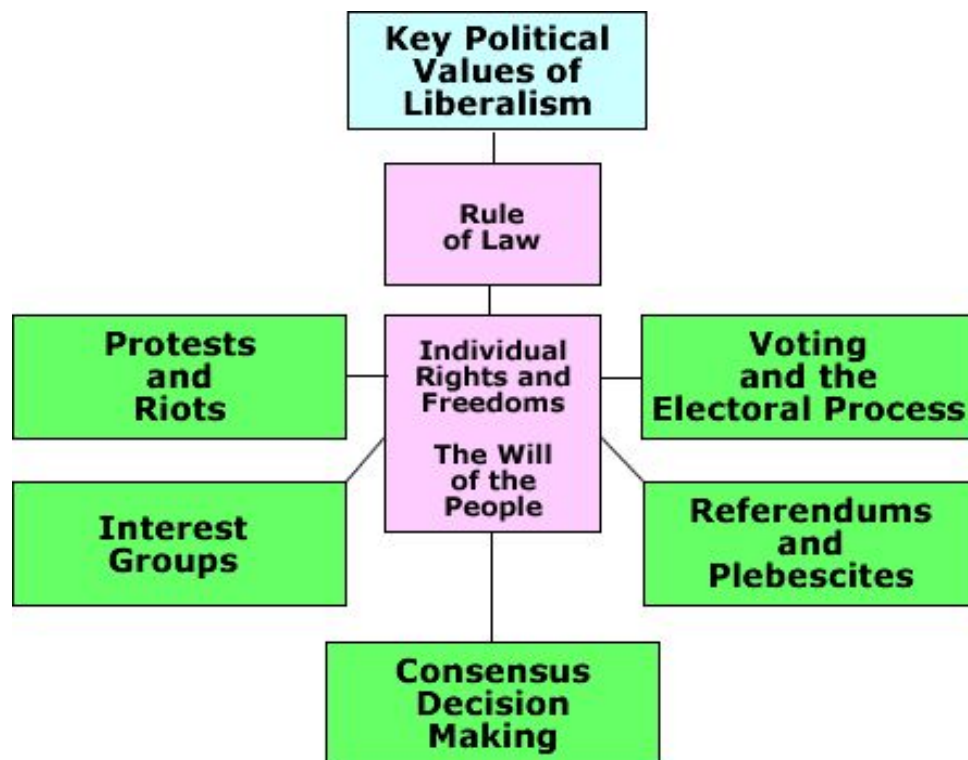
1. Read through the background.
2. Read the textbook pages and Unit 5 readings.
3. Fill in the charts for three countries.
4. Write your response to the question.

Background

In this assignment, you will assess the extent to which the practices of selected political systems reflect the values of liberalism. You will also be asked to defend your ratings.

Review of Liberal Political Values

Review the values of a liberal democracy. Examine the following diagram carefully. The diagram is explained under “The Practices of Democracy that Reflect Values of Liberalism” in Unit 5. “Rule of Law” was explained in Unit 2 under “Key Values of Individualism and Liberalism”.



Researching and Rating Selected Political Systems

You must research one country for **each of the following criteria**:

- a **communist** country, such as the Soviet Union or North Korea
- a **fascist** country, such as Nazi Germany or Fascist Italy
- a **liberal** democracy, such as Canada or the United States

Rate the political practices of these countries according to the degree to which they reflect liberal values. **Determine** how their political system reflects the following liberal political values:

- rule of law
- individual rights and freedoms
- the will of the people
 - protests and riots
 - interest groups
 - consensus decision-making
 - voting and the electoral system
 - referenda and plebiscites

Note: Although some countries claim to reflect the values of a liberal democracy, some of their practices may not reflect liberal political values. For example, in countries that appear to be founded upon liberal values (such as Canada and the United States), many important government positions are filled by executive appointment rather than elections. Such practices can be criticized as counter to the values of liberalism.

Use Google search and the Internet to help guide your research.

Part 1: Charts



In the following charts, **rate** the political practices of **each of the three countries** you chose according to the degree to which they reflect liberal values.

Total /18 (1 mark for each rating and 1 mark for each piece of evidence)

Rating Scale: Put your rating number beside each of the criteria (values) in the charts below.

1 Not at All Liberal	2 Not Very Liberal	3 Somewhat Liberal	4 Strongly Liberal
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Communist [Name of the Country]		
Criteria (values) for a Liberal Democracy	Rating	Evidence for your rating in your own words
Rule of Law		
Individual Rights and Freedoms		
The Will of the People Take the following into account: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protests and riots • interest groups • consensus decision-making • voting and the electoral system • referenda and plebiscites Each of these need to be mentioned in your evidence.		
Cite Sources:		
/6 marks		

Fascist [Name of the Country]		
Criteria (values) for a Liberal Democracy	Rating	Evidence for your Rating in your own words
Rule of Law		
Individual Rights and Freedoms		
The Will of the People Take the following into account: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protests and riots • interest groups • consensus decision-making • voting and the electoral system • referenda and plebiscites Each of these need to be mentioned in your evidence.		
Cite Sources:		
/6 marks		

Liberal Democracy [Name of the Country]		
Criteria (values) for a Liberal Democracy	Rating	Evidence for your Rating in your own words
Rule of Law		
Individual Rights and Freedoms		
The Will of the People Take the following into account: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protests and riots • interest groups • consensus decision-making • voting and the electoral system • referenda and plebiscites Each of these need to be mentioned in your evidence.		
Cite Sources:		
/6 marks		

Part 2: Written Response

Discuss how much governments should follow or reject the will of the people.

Use the information you researched in the above charts as examples to help support your position (position paragraph).

Your written response should specifically refer to the countries in the above charts.

Total /15 *Based on the Position Paragraph rubric found at the end of the assignment

Suggested Format

Introduction (3–5 sentences)

- Give a brief introduction regarding your chosen countries and the will of the people in general.
- Answer the following yes or no question as your thesis: Should governments follow what citizens want?

Body Paragraph (7–10 sentences)

- How much should the governments listen to citizens? Is there an example to support your statements? Use the chart information and terminology to answer these questions.
- How much should the government ignore the citizens and act without citizens' say? Is there an example to support your statements? Use the chart information and terminology to answer these questions.
- Include examples from the course or current events to support statements.

Conclusion (3–5 sentences)

- Conclude with overall statements and opinions.

Suggestions for Success

- Avoid only summaries of the countries.
- Make this response a large paragraph of 15–20 sentences.
- Avoid including statements with no examples.
- Make sure you include specific terms and examples in your response.
- Use terminology and evidence in your response.



<Write your response here.>

Rubric for Position Paragraph(s)

Scoring Criteria: Position Paragraph	Explanations and Support 10 marks When marking Explanations and Support , markers should consider <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quality of explanations • selection and quality of support 	Communication 5 marks When marking Communication , markers should consider <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • organization and coherence • vocabulary (specificity and accuracy) • sentence construction (clarity and completeness) • grammar and mechanics (consistency of tense, punctuation, spelling, and capitalization)
Excellent E	Explanations are thorough and comprehensive, revealing a perceptive understanding. Support is specific and accurate. Errors, if present, do not detract from the response. 10	The writing is fluent and organized effectively. Vocabulary is precise and effective. The writing demonstrates confident control of sentence construction, grammar, and mechanics. The occurrence of errors is rare. 5
Proficient Pf	Explanations are appropriate and purposeful, revealing a clear understanding. Support is relevant and appropriate but may contain some minor errors. 8	The writing is organized clearly. Vocabulary is accurate and appropriate. The writing frequently demonstrates effective control of sentence construction, grammar, and mechanics. The occurrence of errors is infrequent. 4
Satisfactory S	Explanations are general and straightforward, revealing an acceptable understanding. Support is relevant but general, may be incompletely developed, and/or contains errors. 6	The writing is generally clear and organized functionally. Vocabulary is generally accurate but not specific. The writing demonstrates basic control of sentence construction, grammar, and mechanics. Errors do not seriously interfere with communication. 3
Limited L	Explanations are overgeneralized and/or redundant, revealing a confused, though discernable, understanding. Support is superficial, may not always be relevant, and contains significant errors. 4	The writing is uneven and incomplete but is organized discernibly. Vocabulary is imprecise and/or inappropriate. The writing demonstrates faltering control of sentence construction, grammar, and mechanics. Errors hinder communication. 2
Poor P	Explanations are tangential or minimal, revealing a negligible understanding. Support, if present, is incomplete, may be marginally relevant, and contains significant and/or frequent errors. 2	The writing is unclear and disorganized. Vocabulary is ineffective and frequently incorrect. The writing demonstrates lack of control of sentence construction, grammar, and mechanics. Errors impede communication. 1
Total: /15		
Areas of Strength		
Areas to Improve		
Totals	Charts: /18 Response: /15 Total: /33 Once your assignment is graded, always review the comments and the feedback file. You will be expected to use those comments and feedback in your next assignment.	

Student Exemplars

ex.

80-90%

The will of the people is important in good government. Without it countries can quickly become one sided in its ideologies and soon a totalitarian government is in control. The world has seen superpowers countries that reject liberalism and become fascist or communist states.

In 1933 Germany elections resulted in the Nazi Party led by Adolf Hitler take control of Germany through emergency decree and the Nuremberg laws. Added by the promotion and propaganda of consensus nationalism, the Nazis soon began annexing parts of Europe, which led to the Second World War. Nazi Germany defied the will of all people by sending civilians to concentration death camps. Citizens of Germany were segregated based on race, religion, sexual preference and ethnicity. Hitler declare the German people needed to purify their population of the segregated citizens, blaming them for things like the Treaty of Versailles, which was a national embarrassment. Millions of citizens, pow's were killed in the camps and the will of those people were not on the forefront concern of the Nazi party.

(Give a summary statement or two regarding how things went without the will of the people being consulted.)

On the other side of the political spectrum is communism. In North Korea Kim Jong-un is the chairman of the Workers Party of Korea and the supreme leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. North Korea has repeatedly violated the will of the people by using its military and police to murder or imprison anyone falling out of favour of the political partisans. Hard labour and re-education camps have been used to control the population and death penalties issued for political reasons. Elections have all be for show as all candidates are chosen and won by the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland. Voting is monitored by officials and voting against a party member requires using a red pen in plain view of election officials. Such acts of defiance are considered too risky. **(Give a summary statement or two regarding how things went without the will of the people being consulted.)**

In Canada there is the charter of rights and freedoms meant to protect the rights of the individual from oppression of government. But during times of crisis Canada can put into place the Emergencies Act which gives government temporary measures to ensure safety and security during a time of crisis. Any attempt by the government to suspend the civil rights of Canadians, even in an emergency, will be subject to the "reasonable and justified" test under section 1 of the Charter. Therefore the government cannot defy the will of the people permanently. Canada hasn't always had the best interest of all of its citizens in mind. During WWII Japanese citizens were imprisoned in internment camps for national security and aboriginals were forced to send their children to boarding schools as part of assimilation programs resulting in abhorrent assaults by the people running those schools. In conclusion, it is understandable in times of crisis for government to put into place temporary laws to maintain the security and safety of the nation, but those temporary acts must be subject to

our basis values, rights and freedoms. Without the use of temporary acts the government could lose control to a revolutionary uprising that may not have the interest of all citizens in mind. Conversely if the government wasn't subject to laws of the people, then a dominate totalitarian government could easily take over and commit atrocious acts to maintain its power over the population. **(Give a summary statement or two regarding how things went without the will of the people being consulted.)**

Summary regarding general topic and the conclusions about the examples should be mentioned here.

Thank you for using all the chart examples to back up your statements. You also applied course terminology.